

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please amend the specification as follows:

[0001]. This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application No.: ~~60/~~\_\_\_\_, ~~60/527,789~~, entitled Lossless Image Data Hiding, by inventors Yun-Qing Shi and Guorong Xuan, filed December 17, 2002, the entire disclosure of which is hereby incorporated by reference.

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